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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number:	09/112,750
Application. Filed:	July 10, 1998
Applicant:	Kia Silverbrook
Application. Title:	Utilizing Autofocus Information for Image Processing in a Digital Camers
Examiner/GAU:	Luong Nguyen/GAU 2612
Dated	October 2, 2002
At:	Balmain NSW Australia
Docket No.	ART08US

REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Official Action of 3 July 2002, the Applicant makes the following submissions.

The rejection of claims under 35 USC 103 (a) under Anderson '394 in view of Anderson 175 is improper.

Claim 5 defines a method of generating an output image using a digital camera comprising at least the two steps of firstly capturing a focused image using an automatic focussing technique which, in turn, generates focus settings and secondly, subsequently, generating an output image which has been manipulated by applying a digital image process to the captured focused image employing at least the focus settings. Anderson ('175) discloses a digital camera having an automatic focusing arrangement which determines when to take an image, that is, when the image is in focus and, additionally, what exposure settings to use. As disclosed in Anderson '175, these focus settings and exposure settings are not subsequently recorded or made available for subsequent use. The digital image is simply captured in focus.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully contended that all claims now pending in the above identified Patent Application recite a novel and not obvious method which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending are respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:

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